

CLINTON PLAZA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Board of Education, City of Newark, N.J.
Dr. Joseph Schotland, Supt. in Chg. Business

Kelly & Grusen, Architects
DiStasio & Van Buren, Structural Engineers
Grady & Meyer, Mechanical Engineers
Paradise Construction Corp., Gen. Contractors

Site & Location: 4 acres, corner Clinton Pl. and Randolph Pl.

Student Population: 1600

Facilities: 96 Educational rooms; library; cafeteria; boys & girls gym;
auditorium. 3-story L-shaped building.

Sq. Ft. 169,000 volume - 2,400,000 cu. ft.

Construction: Steel frame; glass & metal panel walls; concrete slab floor
and roof construction; terrazzo and line-tile floor finish;
plaster-facing tile wall finish.

Mechanical Systems: Low pressure, steam-oil heat; unit ventilation in classrooms.

Construction contracts awarded August 1955:

General Construction.....	\$2,526,865.
Heating-Ventilating.....	440,945.
Electrical.....	338,660.
Plumbing.....	188,300.
Kitchen Equipment.....	35,882.*
	<u>\$3,530,592.</u>

*Other built-in equipment included in General Contract, including Laboratory,
Shop, Gyn, Auditorium equipment.

The school is planned with two major wings. One will be a three-story teaching wing, the upper two floors of which will contain six-sided classrooms, while the first floor will have administrative offices, vocational shops, a library and a 530-seat cafeteria. The other wing, along Randolph Place, will contain a 1,000-seat auditorium with orchestra and balcony levels, a gymnasium with maximum spectator capacity of 900, music rehearsal rooms, fine arts department, home-making rooms, teachers' lounge and the boiler plant.

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In the early stages of the planning when the hexagonal clusters were proposed, members of the Board of Education and Dr. Joseph H. Schotland, Assistant Superintendent in charge of Business, made a complete analysis of the design, studying its advantages over more conventional designs.

In their analysis, the Board set up the actual area of a typical hexagonal classroom on a gymnasium floor in order to examine the flexibility of furniture and equipment layout that was possible, finding that the hexagon is adaptable to an infinite variety of arrangements to meet every classroom requirement. It was determined that there are numerous functional advantages in the hexagon.

The hexagonal classrooms are to be housed in a series of clusters, each cluster containing five rooms. The clusters are connected by a common, natural lighted central corridor which extends the length of the wing. There are four clusters on the second floor and four on the third floor, making eight clusters and providing for a total of 40 classrooms within a comparatively compact and centralized area. Administrative offices, vocational shops, the library and a 530-seat cafeteria will be on the first floor level of this wing.

In addition to providing a maximum amount of natural light for each classroom and the central corridor, the principal aims of the architects' design are twofold: to achieve a classroom grouping which will establish teaching and general activity spaces most adaptable to present day educational doctrines; and to make possible certain construction and space economies which are required in the planning of a large city school on a reasonably restricted site.

The "family" grouping of the five classroom units in each cluster will facilitate organizing the various grade levels into more cohesive groups, both educationally and socially. By placing pupils of certain age groups in specific locations, it will be possible to control and integrate more effectively the teaching and general activities of each group and will afford each pupil a greater sense of identity with his group.

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Programming of classes may also be arranged and scheduled around the activities of each group within specific clusters, thus reducing the load of corridor traffic considerably. Pupils proceeding to and from classrooms, will not block or jam corridor traffic since each classroom door will be set back from the main line of the corridor. The hexagons will form, in effect, a small "alley" off the corridor in the core of each cluster, thereby providing less congested approaches to classrooms.

Natural light, sunshine and air will come into the corridor at many points, lending a strong note of cheerfulness to areas which seldom see sunlight. It is expected that on normal days, very little artificial light will be required for the entire central corridor core.

Advantages to be found in the hexagonal classrooms, will be in the maximum amount of natural light they will have and in the flexibility of equipment arrangement possible within a minimum amount of floor area. Elimination of right angle corners will provide extra width to the rooms and also give students much better visibility of all classroom walls. In the use of artificial lighting for classrooms, which will consist of fluorescent fixtures encased in plastic, more light will be delivered to working surfaces in the hexagonal room than would be possible to in rectangular room with the same number of fixtures. Economies in heating will be possible; since less area will be serviced than in a rectangular room with the same amount of glass. There will also be less area of interior partitions to be maintained or repainted, affording considerable long range economy.

(over)

Construction of the school will consist of fireproofed steel frame, with reinforced concrete floor slabs and acoustical ceilings. Exterior walls of the hexagonal classrooms will consist of colored porcelain enamel steel expanded panels reaching from floor to wall height above which there will be a 3 ft. high clear glass vision strip, after which glass block (with color filters) will reach to the ceiling height.

The main entrance to the school will be off Randolph Place into a link and courtyard joining both school wings. An overhead link enclosed with glass will provide direct access to the auditorium and gymnasium from the teaching wing.

September 20, 1955

WJH